

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EROWELL:ML

APPROVED BY EUR:AAHARTMAN

S/S - MR. GAMBLE

E - MR. ROGERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 290011

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, GW, PO, US

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL AID FOR PORTUGAL

1. IN YOUR CONTACTS WITH SPD LEADERS, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REITERATE THE NEED FOR CONTINUED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE PRESENT PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT, BOTH FROM THE FRG AND FROM BRANDT'S COLLEAGUES AT GENEVA.

2. YOU MAY TALK ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

-- SOARES HAS TAKEN NUMEROUS POLITICALLY AND MORALLY COURAGEOUS STEPS TO STABILIZE PORTUGAL'S ECONOMY AS THE FIRST AND OBVIOUSLY ESSENTIAL STEP IN CONSOLIDATING THE COUNTRY'S NEW DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

-- HE HAS PASSED LAWS TO RESTORE LABOR PRODUCTIVITY, TO INCREASE REVENUES AND CUT THE DEFICIT AND TO RESTORE PRIVATE SECTOR CONFIDENCE.

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-- HE HAS BEATEN OFF REBELLIOUS ELEMENTS IN THE LEFT WING
OF HIS PARTY, BUT THE THREAT OF A POTENTIAL SPLIT STILL
EXISTS.

-- THE COMMUNISTS WITH RENEWED CONFIDENCE ARE STRONGLY
ATTACKING THE SOCIALISTS ON THE LABOR FRONT AND RECENTLY
WON ELECTIONS IN NINE IMPORTANT UNIONS.

-- IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PORTUGAL'S FRIENDS AND ALLIES
GIVE THE GOVERNMENT EVERY POSSIBLE KIND OF SUPPORT,
PARTICULARLY NOW WHEN THE GOVERNMENT FEELS SO BELEAGUERED
BY THE RESURGENT COMMUNIST PARTY.

3. DETAILS ON POSSIBLE SPECIFIC ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN UP
AT A LATER STAGE. ROBINSON

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